

## THE PRIMARY PLEDGE PROVIDES THE PLAN FOR

Dr. T. J. Dunbar of Portsmouth, Ohio, has sent to The Commoner 191 primary pledges. Dr. Dunbar writes: "Please send more primary pledge blanks. There is no trouble about finding signers even in Ohio. Logan county, West Virginia, is solidly democratic."

This is the kind of work that will insure the success of the primary pledge plan. It is hoped that every other Commoner reader who has not exerted some effort for the primary pledge will lend a hand at the earliest opportunity. Even though you make it a practice to attend primaries, don't withhold your pledge. By signing you will set a good example for your careless neighbor. This is not to be the work of a day nor of several days. It is to be the work of months and of years. The field is a large one and to cover it time and effort will be required, but if democrats co-operate the desired result will be accomplished. Every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straight-forward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on page 9.

Primary pledges unaccompanied by letters have been sent in in numbers as follows: J. T. Hazen, Avoca, Iowa, 25 primary pledges; A. K. Crow, Hamilton, Mont., 25; James Summers, Iowa, 16; Dave Best, Ardmore, I. T., 35; V. Ippolit, Newark, N. J., 35; R. C. Tucker, Parkenly, W. Va., 16; C. J. Hofman, Jersey City, N. J., 35; R. E. Huston, Roseland, Mo., 15; George W. Courtright, Wheelersburg, Ohio, 12; D. A. Lewis, Sealeburg, Ind., 35; R. McQuiddy, Lawrenceburg, Ky., 7; W. J. Orchard, South Omaha, Nebraska, 35; S. G. Preissen, Albany, N. Y., 7; J. C. Shafer, Edina, Mo., 35.

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

Elisha Bond, Atkinsville, W. Va.—Enclosed please find twenty-one primary pledges. Will do all I can to help the cause of true democracy.

John W. Irvine, Madison, Mo.—Find enclosed my name and seventy others who have signed the primary pledge. We think it a good thing for our party, and endorse it with all our hearts. I have always voted the ticket. I was born in Virginia in 1835; my first vote was for Buchanan. I stayed with the ticket ever since. I hope to see a good democrat president. This is from Monroe county, the banner democratic county of the state. I was only a little while getting the seventy names. By taking a little time I could get a thousand or more. I want your paper as long as I live. I could not do without it.

J. W. Harrison, Marshalltown, Iowa.—Enclosed find my pledge and two others. I cast my first vote for president in 1840. I am too old to look up the few democrats in this county—I mean the Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan democrats such as I am. I wish to live to 1908 to vote for a good democrat for president.

J. N. Angel, Mese Grande, Calif.—I have been slow to send in my primary pledge as I wanted to see if there was any objection to it from the standpoint of efficiency. After a thorough study of the plan I think it is a good one as far as it

goes, but it does not cover all the ground that the democracy needs to solidify a party built on the principles that Jefferson and Jackson advocated. Enclosed find my primary pledge until death calls me home. Yours in hope of final victory.

John A. McNeal, Rockbridge Baths, Va.—Enclosed you will find my pledge as to the primary elections. In this connection it would be proper to state that we are now in the midst of the greatest political discussion that I have ever witnessed in Virginia, and this discussion is preparatory of the primary election that takes place on the 22nd proximo. The Hon. Andrew Jackson Montague has long been in favor of the primary plan for nomination of the democratic officeholders, and at our last democratic state convention he secured the declaration that the next United States senator should submit his election to the people of Virginia for the senatorship. And now we have Messrs. Montague and Martin in a "hilt to hilt" political battle. At this time it is hard to forecast the result of this great struggle, but the people are learning many things they never would have heard tell of if it had not been for this discussion. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The Commoner, with the same bright, clean smile, continues to come, and is read like a love letter. It is my candid opinion that the present great political discussion now going on in Virginia will accomplish more to enlighten the people than any other political canvass that has ever occurred in the state. One of the great reasons is, this is a family affair, and the truth is being told. Heretofore it has been democrat and republican, and the party lash has been as much abused in Virginia as any other state in the union.

Ruben W. Heflin, Flora Vista, New Mexico.—I herewith enclose primary pledge, because of the duty of example—it would be well if voters in all parties would sign such a pledge—it has been my custom to attend all primaries. It is interesting to know what ticket a man has been voting in past years, but it is more interesting to know what ticket he is voting now. And why? I believe in the principles as set forth by Jefferson, Lincoln and Bryan—democratic democracy. I believe the party of today that comes the nearest these principles is the democratic party, for that reason I as a democrat.

H. B. Edwards, Forrester, Tex.—Enclosed find twenty-six names (including my own) which I have secured to the primary pledge as printed in The Commoner. It is gratifying as well as encouraging to see so much interest taken in the matter. It is evident that the people have not lost hope in the triumph of the principles of democracy as expounded and defended by W. J. Bryan. Had the common people been aroused to their interest preceeding the national convention at St. Louis as they were during the campaign of 1896 we would have had a more democratic platform and candidate. The Commoner is a great educator and the people are being educated through its columns in the great and eternal principles of justice between man and man. "On with the battle" until victory shall crown our efforts.

R. T. Largen, president Bentley Democratic club, Bentley, I. T.—I enclose list of thirty-six democrats around Bentley.

J. R. Fowlkes, San Diego, Calif.—As I expect to remain here, and believing in the principles of honesty as "the remedy for most ills in church and state" I sign the primary pledge, hoping to help remedy conditions. I believe in honest democracy and honest christianity, there being more than one kind in our time. We will have to come back and agree to the declaration of one of our great men in the past, that an honest man is the greatest work of God and highest in politics and christianity.

R. R. Goodrich, Paola, Kansas.—I send my promise to attend all the democratic conventions between now and 1908, and hope that the primary pledge plan will make an improvement in our candidates.

Matt Plunkett, Central City, S. D.—Enclosed find twenty names of men who will do all they can for true democracy.

J. J. Brushart, Portsmouth, Ohio.—Enclosed you will find a list of democratic democrats.

B. F. Evans, Lufkin, Tex.—Enclosed please find a list of sixteen primary pledges. I presented the pledge to seventeen voters—one re-

fused to sign. So I send a 16 to 1 list. It is very hard to get up any enthusiasm among the voters since Dave Hill and Belmont succeeded in forcing Parker on them, but if we can get all the voters to attend the primaries there will be no danger of their repeating the outrage.

W. P. Gill, Luella, Ark.—Please find primary pledge filled out and herewith enclosed. I heartily endorse the plan. Let the work go on. Success to The Commoner.

W. L. Devereaux, Clyde, N. Y.—Enclosed find signed pledge. We have in our state the law of regularity of date and hour of holding primaries and caucuses, which is correct. Now we can add the agreement and pledge of democrats to turn out and be there.

Samuel B. Pratt, Libby, Mont.—I am certainly heartily in accord with this movement, and will do all I can to get our politics in Montana in line for an aggressive campaign.

George T. Byrd, Manokin, Md.—I hereby obligate myself to attend all the primaries of the democratic party from now until the next presidential convention. We have some people here who are opposed to silver, but if we had about four times more silver than we have the community would be better off. God bless The Commoner.

M. B. Smith, Ranger, W. Va.—Find enclosed some of the primary pledges of genuine democrats in my district. If I had more blanks I could get lots more.

J. W. Wilson, Lexington, Ky.—Enclosed find list of signers of the primary pledge. These names were easily procured. Send some more blanks and my neighbors and I will get them filled up. I think The Commoner is striking at the vital points in politics.

W. A. Phillips, Purdy, I. T.—Enclosed please find blank filled out. I was glad to have the opportunity to get it signed, and if you want me to circulate another primary pledge petition, let me know and I am at your service.

P. W. Cunningham, Loretto, Nebr.—Enclosed find the primary pledge, signed. I believe your plan to be the best means to get the democrats together.

Algernon Colburn, Minneapolis, Minn.—I have been unable to spend any time getting signers of the pledge this summer. Next fall I will get more signers—I enclose four signatures to the pledge.

J. P. Hair, Russellville, Ark.—With great pleasure I herewith enclose signed primary pledge which I regard as a sure plan for a great democratic victory in 1908.

D. D. Hartsell, Wisner, La.—I come as a democrat that has been rendering, in my humble way, earnest and faithful efforts for the democratic party ever since the nomination of Tilden and have never voted anything but a straight democratic ticket, but if the party continues the course pursued in 1904, I will most reluctantly have to leave the party. I have signed the primary pledge, advocated by The Commoner, and have no other desire in communication of this article, than to reflect the sentiment that exists in the hearts of thousands of democrats who have become inactive since the party so ignominiously reversed its time-honored principles in its platform in 1904. I have no disposition to chide, but the calcium light of truth must be turned on if we would have our path illuminated, so that we may clearly take our bearings to the star of success. If the democratic party desire the support and the respect of the people, it must repudiate Clevelandism with its entire following, and not only return to the abandoned principles of 1896 and 1900, but it must look to and take counsel of the leaders of these dates. Then the rank and file of democracy had confidence in their nominee, and they entered the campaign full of life, strength and vigor to battle for party principles. But in 1904 the democratic national convention became intoxicated by the siren songs of the New York contingency, dictated by Grover Cleveland and nominated Alton Brooks Parker, who had been hypnotized previously by the trusts so that he could not open his mouth or move his tongue to let the world know his former political convictions until after his nomination, then his sphinx like expressions were relaxed, his tongue become loose and in limber Jack fashion he spins himself over the country to give vent to his pent up convictions. The convention had